

Application No.: 10/788,644
Filing Date.: February 27, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-43 were pending prior to the entry of these amendments. Please amend Claims 1, 4, 6, 10, 11, 21, 29, 37, 38, 41, and 42 as indicated below. Please cancel withdrawn Claim 12-20 and 30-36 without prejudice. Please also cancel Claims 7-9, 24-26, 39, and 40 without prejudice. Please add new Claims 44-52.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A battery assembly, comprising:

a battery having a body with a base and opposite side faces extending upwardly therefrom, a compartment connected to one side face and a second compartment connected to the opposite side face, each compartment defining a downward-facing cavity, [[the]] each cavity housing an electrical terminal therein facing toward the base of the battery, each compartment including overhanging skirts disposed about the electrical terminals, the skirts substantially surrounding the electrical terminals; and

a housing having opposite side walls extending from a base to free ends of the side walls, each of the opposite side walls defining an upward-facing recessed portion, [[the]] each recessed portion housing an electrical terminal facing away from the base of the housing, wherein the recessed portions are configured to removably receive the compartments therein so that the electrical terminals of the battery operatively contact each other the electrical terminals of the housing.

2. (Original) The battery assembly of Claim 1, wherein the compartments are offset relative to a longitudinal plane extending across a midline of the body, said offset defining a first distance between the compartments and a front face of the battery, and a second distance between the compartments and a back face of the battery, wherein the second distance is shorter than the first distance.

3. (Original) The battery assembly of Claim 2, wherein the recessed portions are disposed a third distance from a rear wall of the housing, the third distance generally equal to the second distance.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A battery assembly comprising:

a battery [[with]] having a proximal end, a distal end, and opposite sides therebetween, [[with]] the battery including one battery electrode disposed on one side

Application No.: 10/788,644
Filing Date.: February 27, 2004

and a second battery electrode disposed on the opposite side, the battery including compartments disposed on said opposite sides of the battery and proximal the distal end, the compartments having recessed cavities that house the battery electrodes; and

a housing with opposite side walls, with one housing electrode disposed on one side wall and a second housing electrode disposed on the opposite side wall, wherein the housing is configured to removably receive the proximal end of the battery therein so that the housing electrodes operatively contact the battery electrodes, the housing including recessed portions at free ends of the opposite side walls of the housing, wherein the recessed portions house the housing electrodes, wherein the compartments of the battery are configured to fit into the recessed portions of the housing.

5. (Original) The battery assembly of Claim 4, further comprising means for substantially preventing the short-circuiting of the battery.

6. (**Currently Amended**) The battery assembly of Claim 5, wherein the means for preventing the short circuiting of the battery includes overhanging skirts disposed about the battery electrodes, the skirts ~~configured to substantially surround~~ substantially surrounding the housing electrodes when the battery is disposed in the housing.

7. (**Canceled**)

8. (**Canceled**)

9. (**Canceled**)

10. (**Currently Amended**) The battery assembly of Claim [[7]] 4, wherein the recessed cavities face downward the proximal end of the battery.

11. (**Currently Amended**) The battery assembly of Claim [[5]] 4, wherein the battery electrodes have the same sign.

12. (**Canceled**)

13. (**Canceled**)

14. (**Canceled**)

15. (**Canceled**)

16. (**Canceled**)

17. (**Canceled**)

18. (**Canceled**)

19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently Amended) A method for installing a battery, comprising:
providing a battery with opposite side faces, with one battery electrode disposed on one side face and a second battery electrode disposed on the opposite side face, wherein the battery comprises compartments that house the battery electrodes, wherein the battery further comprises overhanging skirts extending about the compartments;
providing a housing with opposite side walls, with one housing electrode disposed on one side wall and a second housing electrode disposed on the opposite side wall, wherein the housing comprises recessed portions that house the housing electrodes;
[[and]]
moving the battery and housing relative to each other so that the battery electrodes and housing electrodes operatively contact each other; and
moving the battery and housing relative to each other so that the skirts extend about the recessed portions.
22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the battery electrodes face in a direction toward a base of the battery.
23. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the housing electrodes face in a direction away from a base of the housing.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the battery terminals have the same sign.
28. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the housing terminals have the same sign.
29. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein the battery electrodes are disposed proximal to a portion the top of the battery that is configured to be distal to the housing after the moving steps.
30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)
32. (Canceled)
33. (Canceled)
34. (Canceled)
35. (Canceled)
36. (Canceled)
37. (Currently Amended) A battery assembly comprising:

a battery having a body with compartments disposed on opposite sides of the body, wherein each compartment houses an electrical terminal, wherein the electrical terminals of the battery have the same sign; and

a housing having a pair of opposite side walls, each side wall having a recessed portion disposed thereon that houses an electrical terminal, wherein the electrical terminals of the housing have the same sign, wherein the recessed portions of the housing removably receive the battery body compartments therein so that the electrical terminals of the battery and the housing operatively contact each other.
38. (Currently Amended) A battery assembly comprising:

a battery having battery electrodes disposed on opposite sides of the battery;

a housing having housing electrodes disposed on opposite side walls of the housing, wherein the housing is configured to removably receive the battery therein so that the housing electrodes operatively contact the battery electrodes; and

means for preventing the short circuiting of the battery and housing overhanging skirts disposed about the battery electrodes, wherein the skirts substantially surround the housing electrodes when the battery is disposed in the housing.
39. (Canceled)
40. (Canceled)
41. (Currently Amended) The battery assembly of Claim [[40]] 38, wherein the battery has a base configured to be inserted into the housing and a top opposite to the base, wherein the compartments battery electrodes are disposed proximal [[a]] the top of the battery.
42. (Currently Amended) The battery assembly of Claim [[40]] 38, wherein the recessed cavities battery electrodes face downward towards a base of the battery.

Application No.: 10/788,644
Filing Date.: February 27, 2004

43. (Original) The battery assembly of Claim 38, wherein the battery electrodes have the same sign.

44. (New) The battery assembly of Claim 1, wherein the skirts provide a labyrinth seal around the electrical terminals.

45. (New) The battery assembly of Claim 1, wherein the compartments of the battery are disposed proximal to a portion of the battery that is distal to the housing and are configured to fit into the recessed portions of the housing.

46. (New) The battery assembly of Claim 1, wherein the electrical terminals of the battery have the same sign.

47. (New) The battery assembly of Claim 1, wherein the electrical terminals of the housing have the same sign.

48. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein, after moving the battery and housing relative to each other so that the skirts extend about the recessed portions, the skirts providing a labyrinth seal around the battery electrodes.

49. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein, after moving the battery and housing relative to each other so that the battery electrodes and housing electrodes operatively contact each other, the skirts substantially surround the housing electrodes.

50. (New) The battery assembly of Claim 38, wherein the housing electrodes face away from a base of the housing.

51. (New) The battery assembly of Claim 38, wherein the housing electrodes have the same sign.

52. (New) The battery assembly of Claim 38, wherein the skirts provide a labyrinth seal around the battery electrodes.